

TASMANIAN *life*

TASMANIA'S OWN LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

\$8.80 INCL GST
MAY/JUNE 07

Unearthing the secrets of
Hillcrest



Comfort Food: She'll be
APPLES!

**WHEN FAMILIES
MEAN BUSINESS**

6 of the
BEST

Golfing in Tasmania



CONTENTS

24 **The Interview: Richard Flanagan**

As one of Tasmania's most respected literary figures and a public antagonist of the State government, Richard Flanagan's reputation extends beyond his pen. In this interview, the author talks about his third novel, *The Unknown Terrorist*, and reveals how he feels about his home State. "I just happen to live in a place where there are a terrible lot of wrong things going on and if a writer doesn't have the courage to speak the truth about them, how can you expect anyone else to?," he says.

28 **Unearthing the secrets of Hillcrest**

For Andrew and Loretta Thompson, researching the history of their gothic Victorian home, *Hillcrest*, has been a source of great joy which has led to many fascinating discoveries. The Hobart landmark, originally a humble cottage, has experienced numerous makeovers by different owners.

44 **Our fabulous fairways**

Tasmania represents a golfers' paradise. It is home to Barnbougle, one of the finest golf links courses in the world, has more courses per head of population and a greater variety than anywhere else in Australia, some say the world. The future is bright, with a host of new residential golf courses under development. Here, we preview six of the best courses in the State.

50 **The secret garden**

Valleyfield at Broadmarsh is an English oasis at odds with its surrounding farming landscape. Inspired by a visit to England in 1994, Susan Jones has created a carefully constructed landscape made up of a series of views. Picture gardens formed by well-trimmed box hedges are connected by dark green lawns, and feature a profusion of white, cream and palest pink roses, Oriental lilies, hydrangeas, hellebores and euphorbia.

56 **Family ties**

In a State such as Tasmania, where small businesses employ 80 per cent of Tasmanians, family businesses have an important role to play. We profile four such businesses – a father and son, mother and daughter, father and daughter and mother and son – to determine how they work, and what makes them successful. "If there is a serious problem with family relationships as a result of business, then business must come second. Our family is very strong," says Nick Cretan, who heads up Kriticos Nominees Pty Ltd.

72 **The apple isle**

Karen Goodwin-Roberts re-introduces us to a family favourite in the cooking pages: the apple, in many different guises. There are recipes for baked apples, apple pancakes, waldorf salad, chorizo in cider, apple tart with ginger custard, and braised red cabbage with apples.

78 **Restaurant reviews**

Restaurant and wine writer Tony Walker deems Angasi restaurant at Binalong Bay on the East coast "a regional star", and enjoys the fresh seasonal produce at North Hobart restaurant, Amulet. Standout meals include the honey soy roasted duck breast served in its own stock sauce with a shredded duck, bok choy and sweet corn tart at Angasi, and Amulet's grilled spring lamb fillets with roasted eggplant, Cannelini beans and a Bruny Island Cheese Company "ODO" tart.

84 **State of design**

Tasmania has a reputation for design excellence and fine craftsmanship, forged partly by growing exhibition opportunities and historical factors. Several important exhibitions open shortly, including *Design Island* in Hobart and Launceston, *Nourish* at CAST gallery, Hobart, and *Singular and Multiple: New Jewellery from Tasmania* at the Henry Jones Art Hotel, Hobart.

THE COVER

The entrance hall at *Hillcrest*
Photograph by **Richard Eastwood**



The bigger picture



HAVE WE FORGOTTEN THAT HOBART'S WATERFRONT negotiates between a powerful landscape commanded over by Mount Wellington and the Derwent River, which leads directly to the Great Southern Ocean? Have we forgotten that the juxtaposition of this land and water underpins an uncanny quality which lies at the centre of Hobart's character — a character which remains unchanged over the past 200 years?

The recent Hobart Waterfront International Design Competition was supported by the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority and, in their words, aimed at “floating new ideas for the Hobart Waterfront”. In late January, three major prize winners were announced (each sharing the \$150,000 main prize pool) and a month long exhibition of 28 entries selected from the 280 received commenced at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. I expected more public and professional discussion in response to this exhibition. That there has been little response is disappointing as this was the only beneficial outcome possible from a competition for “ideas” and which did not have a strategy for the implementation of physical change to our waterfront.

Equally disappointing was the focus on the waterfront as an isolated context in the competition brief and entries. It reminds me of the scale model of Sullivans Cove in the foyer of the Waterfront Authority on Franklin Wharf which gives the impression that the Authority is overseeing an isolated place, just like a child turns a train set in to their own make-believe world. The Hobart waterfront is not an inanimate object and cannot be captured in isolation like this, which was the position my architectural practice sought to address in our competition entry, one of those selected for exhibition.

Gerard Reinmuth, Richard Blythe and I established Terroir Architects eight years ago with offices in Hobart and Sydney. Growing up in Hobart, we knew the dominant presence of the landscape on our home city and State and the innate knowledge we have gained from that would underpin everything we do. The recent waterfront competition was an opportunity for our practice to further our knowledge of working in our home State.

We refute suggestions the site of the waterfront competition — including the City Hall, Dunn Place Carpark, and the concrete wharf apron through to Kings Pier Marina — is an “axis”, for this is a formal city planning technique used to impose order on place rather than working from the order which exists. Rather, the competition site is like a “delta” within the larger landscape context, where the land meets the water. It is where the folds of the landscape, having smoothed out in the foothills and city environs, open out to meet the river. It is a place where the Hobart Rivulet historically spread out from its defined course down the slopes from mountain to sea.

Bearing the changing characteristics over time, the concrete apron of our waterfront has and continues to operate in a state of flux in this “delta” like area, suspended between land and water.

The Derwent River is renowned as one of the world's finest deep water harbours. Travelling between our offices, I am constantly surprised by the scale — in my particular sense, its breadth — of the Derwent in comparison with Sydney Harbour, something Charles Wooley recognised from the perspective of his small dinghy in the last issue of *Tasmanian Life*. The importance of our “trapped” bodies of water, Victoria and Constitution Docks, cannot be underestimated in giving us an easy and genuine connection to the water when the sheer size of the Derwent is beyond comprehension for most of us and it instead forms an expansive “playground” for the boats that use and traverse it.

Having lived in the German major port city of Hamburg 10 years ago, I recall the relationship the city's two fresh water bodies had to each other and the place. The “Big Alster” was a playground in summer months for recreational sailing. The “Little Alster”, very close to the city's civic centre, was more intimate and supported ice skating when frozen over in winter. So despite suggestions from some waterfront competition entrants to significantly alter them, let's not readily overlook the twin docks we have. Victoria Dock is a driving force behind the authenticity of our waterfront with its working boats harbouring and unloading fresh seafood on the doorstep of the city. Constitution Dock is the more recreational and flexible dock, so imagine furthering the opportunity of access by incorporating floating public-accessible platforms in among the fish punts and wooden boats. Can you think of a more desirable place to sit and have lunch?

Congratulations to all who entered the recent waterfront competition, and particularly to the successful firms, for your interest in contributing ideas about our place. However, it is a pity the focus to date has been on the physical solutions put forward in the submissions. Not only is it irreconcilable to derive a single physical strategy from the awarded and exhibited entries, it is missing the point. Opinion, debate and energy surrounding the Hobart waterfront should concentrate on “character” and out of this a strategy may be understood for the future and any development it holds. Most important, this strategy should not be a new overlay from a consultant, but should have its “DNA” in what exists already.

The principle is the same whether we consider the Hobart waterfront or our island State in general — rather than sanitisation that erodes its values and makes “here” more like “everywhere else,” we must develop the unique qualities of this place...our place. ■